

## What Would We Do Without It!

Evelyne Welshhons, Kindergarten Teacher, Division Street School

Without what? Without our Bookmobile! It was back in 1948 that the people of Scott County voted a tax in order to provide for this library. In January of 1950 the library set up headquarters and began operating in Eldridge, Iowa. By the fall of that year it was in circulation with the panel truck coming to the schools with a collection of books.

The books were picked up six to eight weeks later and replaced with a new collection. Then came the Bookmobile and the issuance of library cards in the fall of 1951. This meant that the children went into the Bookmobile and selected their own books with the help of the librarian and their teacher.

Now, in 1955, how do the teachers feel about this traveling library? As one teacher has said, "I'd hate to go back to teaching without it!" She can remember the times when the library shelf was not so well stocked as it is today. Many times she had to supplement her meager supply with books borrowed from the superintendent's office, if such were available, or with books she carried from the public library.

As it is today the teacher can plan a unit of work and, knowing when the Bookmobile will be coming, she can send a request card for such books as she will need. They will either be brought on the next stop or be sent directly to the teacher, if she so desires.

The library carries many supplemental materials for teaching social studies, music and art, as well as film strips, view masters

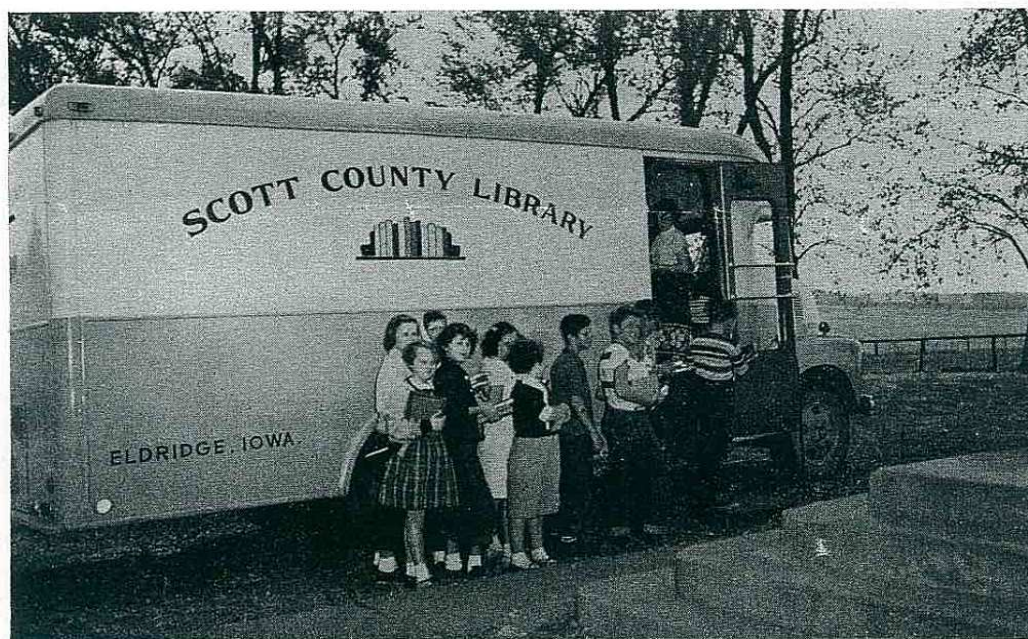
and reels, picture units, and now they are working on a 16mm film library. For the teacher's professional growth she can find books on the professional level as well as recreational reading.

Of course, we couldn't leave the children out of this. If you could hear them say just once, "Here comes the Bookmobile!" or "I found a book I can read!", you would know how important it is to them. There are many books for the primary grades with a vocabulary similar to their pre-primers and primers. The intermediate grades and upper grades are equally well cared for.

Each child is allowed to choose three books which he takes to the desk at the front of the Bookmobile, where the librarian takes his card and puts it in an electric charging machine to eliminate all chances of error. Back in the room the white cards are taken out and the child's name written on them and these are placed in a file box.

As the books are re-circulated the child writes his name on the white card and returns it to the box, so that the teacher knows who is using the books at all times. Before the Bookmobile comes the library committee collects the books and replaces the white cards for the librarian.

On the last stop of the Bookmobile some four hundred books were distributed at our school. This number includes the fifteen additional books each teacher is allowed for use in her room. Think of the wealth of material these children are getting! Again we say, "What would we do without it!"



Library facilities being made available to Scott County rural students.

We read *The Egg Tree* by Katherine Hous, a book which received the Caldwell Award in 1950, and decided that it would be fun to make an egg tree for our school.

A week before Easter we selected a branch about thirty inches in height from a lilac bush. We planted the branch in a long pail of dirt and watered it. The branch had many buds on it and stayed green several weeks. We covered the pail with paper.

All of the pupils brought eggs to school. Holes were made in the ends of the shells and the eggs were blown out. At noon we scrambled the eggs in butter for our lunch.

During art period the eggs were dyed and decorated in various ways. Some children wrote their names, Easter Greetings, drew faces on the shells with a wax pencil before placing them in the egg dye. Some eggs were colored two or more colors. Others were dyed blue and silver, and stars were pasted on them.

The pupils painted faces on some of the eggs and made clever felt or paper hats for them. Others made tails, ears and feet for their eggs. Glue was put on some of the colored eggs and colored corn sugar was sprinkled on the glue. The children found other original ways to decorate the eggs.

The children became so enthusiastic they began blowing out the eggs that their mothers were using at home so that they might have the shells to color or paint. We had over sixty eggs on our little tree.

We found a tiny bird's nest along the roadside, and fastened it among the branches with Scotch tape. One of the pupils found two very small eggs in the hen house. These were dyed blue and put in the nest.

Some of the shells had too large a hole in them to be held by a knot. We experimented and found that if we tied a string to a piece of toothpick about one-half inch in length and dropped it in the shell, the toothpick would turn in the shell and so that the egg could be tied to the branch.

We enjoyed our tree until school was then took it to the county superintendent's office for the rural school exhibit at Hamilton County Fair. Many people admired it and told us how nice it was.

We are looking forward to making another Egg Tree this spring. We found a water elm that has a tiny wild canary in it and cut it to use as our tree. We are sure that if you make an Egg Tree it will become an annual affair. In fact, our pupils had more fun making the Egg Tree than decorating the Christmas tree.



## Special School Milk Program

C. W. Bangs, Director of School Lunch Program

Iowa School Children evidently approve of the Special School Milk Program. This is proven by the fact that they drank four and one-half million half pints of it in the month of January. This is an increase of two million half pints over the same month last year or an increase of 80%. The national average increase so far this year has been 55%, so Iowa school children did more than their share in reducing the surplus of milk.

At the direction of the Congress, the U. S. Department of Agriculture repays schools participating in the program at the rate of four cents per half pint for the amount of the increased consumption over a base period. February and March of last year were used as the base months. Schools that had no milk service last year may be reimbursed at the rate of three cents per half pint for all the milk consumed by the children.

For January, 809 schools submitted claims for the milk consumed by approximately 160,000 children. The Federal subsidy is passed on to the children in the form of a reduced price for milk. Some schools are making the extra milk available to the children at no cost, but the majority of the schools are charging about 2¢ for the extra milk.

In addition to the 809 schools that submitted claims for January, 150 additional schools have been approved for this program. The allotment of Federal money for this program will be sufficient to pay all claims throughout the rest of the school year.

While this new program is helping materially in reducing the surplus of fluid milk there are long range benefits that are becoming evident. Children who haven't liked milk before, now are drinking it at school; they're learning that good cold milk tastes good; their teachers tell them of some of the ways in which milk is good for them. So the Special School Milk Program probably is helping to develop a new generation of milk drinkers. More important is the fact that the additional milk, together with the balanced plate lunch available in the 900 schools approved for the school lunch program, is helping to develop a generation of healthier, happier girls and boys.

Schools are given wide freedom in arranging for extra milk service. Extra milk may be served with the school lunch or with the sack lunches brought from home. Extra milk is being made available at the forenoon and afternoon recess, in the morning when the busses arrive, or just before the busses leave to take the children home. Some schools are making extra milk available following physical education classes or following athletic practices if such practices are

considered a part of the school day. On cold mornings some schools are using extra milk to make hot cocoa which may be served when the busses arrive.

There has also been a considerable increase in the participation in the School Lunch Program, both in the number of schools approved for this program and in the number of schools participating. For the first five months of the school year 1953-54, 12,840,503 Type A lunches were served. For the same period of the present school year, 14,997,637 Type A lunches have been served. This is an increase of 16.8% over last year. The average daily participation in the school lunch program in January was 160,922. This is the largest average daily participation in any month since the program began operating under the supervision of the Department of Public Instruction.

Schools may still apply for the Special School Milk Program. Schools might gain valuable experience for next year's operation by operating the program for two or three months this year.

While the Special School Milk Program has been set up for two years, or through the school year 1955-56, legislation has been introduced in Congress to extend the program through 1957.

## Vienna Summer School

The University of Vienna Summer School at Schloss Traunsee, Gmunden, Austria, will offer courses open to American students from July 25 to September 4, 1955.

Designed to promote better understanding between Europeans and Americans, the curriculum features beginning, intermediate and advanced German courses and courses in Austrian art and music, the formation of the modern European mind, and the history of Middle Europe. Psychology, political science and law are also offered. Courses other than German will be conducted in English. To be eligible for entrance to the three or six-week courses, American applicants must have completed at least two years of college work by June.

Closing date for admission is June 15, 1955. Closing date for scholarship applications is April 18, 1955.

An opportunity for summer study combined with outdoor vacation life at a mountain lake, the school is held at the nineteenth century castle of Traunsee on the shore of a lake in Austria's Salskammergut district. In addition to course work, the summer school's \$200 tuition will include trips to Salzburg and the festival, and to nearby places of interest.

A few scholarships are available to well-qualified students who would be unable to attend the summer school without financial assistance. Applicants for these awards or for general admission should write to the Institute of International Education, 1 East 67th Street, New York City.

## Free 1955-1956 Catalogue of Coronet Films Now Available

Coronet Films, Chicago, announces the release of its new 1955-1956 catalogue of 16mm sound motion pictures for educational use. It is available without charge to schools and other training institutions.

The 96-page, four-color catalogue describes 603 teaching films, most of which are available in full color as well as black-and-white. These are presented in logical sequence from films for kindergarten and the primary grades through the intermediate grades and high school—including special mention of desirable films for use in teacher-education, other college courses, and for adult education.

Film listings include a brief description and the length of each subject, the subject areas and grade levels in which each film may be used most effectively, and identification of the educational collaborator.

A complete alphabetical listing of all Coronet films, with page reference to the descriptions in the catalogue, appears in the back of the book.

A free copy of the four-color 1955-1956 catalogue of the largest group of up-to-date educational films in natural color or black-and-white may be obtained by writing to Sales Department, Coronet Films, Coronet Building, Chicago 1, Illinois.

## Indiana University Announces Audio-Visual Assistantships

The Audio-Visual Center at Indiana University has available for the coming academic year (1955-56) several graduate assistantships and part-time appointments for students who wish to take graduate work in audio-visual education and a subject-matter field such as science, social science, health or elementary education.

Stipends range from \$900 to \$2,400, depending on the amount of time devoted to work activities. Activities will include preparation of units of materials involving the preparation and use of audio-visual materials in chosen subject-matter areas for distribution to schools and adult groups.

For information write to: L. C. Larson, Director, Audio-Visual Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

## Horgan Named to Library Board

Miss Gladys Horgan, Elementary Supervisor in the State Department of Public Instruction, has just been appointed to serve on the I. S. E. A. Library Service Board.

This board, consisting of six professional Iowa educators and an experienced library consultant, reviews annually some five hundred books from publications submitted by approximately two hundred publishers. Three hundred new books are added each year to the I. S. E. A. library service in this manner.